basmati rice has been found to be adulterated as per the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act. The quesiton of withdrawing any stock therefore does not arise. Basmati rice sold by Kendriya Bhandar meets the specifications prescribed in the PFA Act and the same is released for sale only after testing to meet the above specifications.

(b) and (c) Tests are carried out on all goods including rice. The goods not meeting the prescribed specifications are withdrawn and the suppliers cautioned and, in extreme cases the supplies from them are discontinued for specified period. A total of 2319 tests of various commodities were carried out during the year 1996-97, out of which 162 samples failed.

Import of LNG for Power Sector

4350. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC, IOC and GAIL are planning to set up any project to import LNG for the power sector;

(b) whether they are also planning to set up more terminals in order to channelise LNG for the power sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of power projects proposed to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ennore, Mangalore, Cochin etc. have been identified as possible locations for LNG terminals.

(d) NTPC's projects near Chennai and at Kayankulam may utilise gas imported as LNG.

Allotment of Pertol Pumps and Gas Agencies to Ineligible Persons

4351. SMT. BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies to ineligible persons have been detected during the last three years;

(b) who verifies the eligibility, the OSBs, or the Oil companies;

(c) whether it is a fact that several persons apply for petrol pumps and gas agencies inspite of being not eligible; and

(d) what steps are taken to see that persons not eligible do not get the petrol pump and agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Twelve (12) cases of ineligible persons getting selected on the basis of furnishing wrong information during the last three years have been reported by the oil companies.

(b) Eligibility of a candidate is verified initially by the concerned oil company. It is further checked by the concerned Board before calling the eligible candidates for interviews.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Applicants are required to submit documentary evidence/affidavits in support of their fulfilling the eligibility conditions stipulated in the advertisement and the application from or at the time of interviews as per the directions of the Board. The documents submitted by the applicants are verified by the concerned oil company as also the selection Board to eliminate ineligible applicants to be considered for selection. In spite of adequate safeguard provided in the guidelines, the possibility of some ineligible candidates getting selected

owing to concealment of material facts cannot be ruled out completely. However, when such a lapse is detected, suitable penal action including cancellation of the selection/allotment is taken against such applicants.

पेट्रोल/डीजल पम्पों के आबंटन हेतु साक्षात्कार में विलम्ब

4352. **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दो वर्ष पूर्व पैट्रोल/डीजल की एजेंसियों हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए गए थे, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक साक्षात्कार हेतु तिथि निर्धारित नहीं किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी०आर० बालु): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) अप्रैल, 1996 से तेल चयन बोर्डों का कार्यचालन आस्थगित कर दिया गया था तथा बाद में भारत सरकार ने तेल चयन बोर्डों के अध्यक्षों और सदस्यों का कार्यकाल 05.03.97 को समाप्त कर दिया था। तेल चयन बोर्डों की अनुपस्थिति में कोई साक्षात्कार निर्धारित नहीं किए जा सके।

Oil Selection Boards

4353. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Oil Selection Boards which are functioning at present, alongwith the number of LPG dealerships and petrol pumps allotted by each, since July, 1996;

(b) whether Government have decided to abolish them and to formulted new policy for the award of dealership in petroleum products and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the interest of the weaker sections of society is proposed to be safeguarded in the new proposed norms and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Functioning of the Oil Selection Boards was kept in abeyance from April 1996, because of the General Elections to the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, tenure of the Chairmen and Memebrs of the Boards was terminated on March 5, 1997. In view of this, on selection was made by these Boards since then.

Government has recently revised the policy guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors for petroleum products. Salient features of the revised gudelines are as under:

(I) Reservation for different sections of the Society has been broad based as under:

(i)	Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ ST)	-25%
(ii)	Physically Handicapped (PH)	- 5%
(iii)	Defence Personnel (DC)	- 8%
(iv)	Paramilitary/Police/ Government Personnel (PMP)	- 8%
(v)	Freedm Fighters (FF)	- 2%
(vi)	Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	- 2%
(vii)	Open (O)	- 50%

(II) For the first time, 30% of the dealerships/distributorships have been reserved for women in each of the categories mentioned above.

(III) Multiple dealership norms have been simplifed. In order to ensure that dealerships/distributorships are not concentrated within the same family, it has been provided in the policy that no person shall be awarded new dealerships/distributorship if he/she or any of his/her close relatives (including step relatives) as given below already holds a Letter of Intent or dealership/distributorship of petrol/diesel/LPG/Kerosene/Light Diesel Oil of any oil company: